## OF LOS ANGEL FIRE

## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN FIRE CHIEF FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

(323) 881-2401

October 29, 2004

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: P. MICHAEL FREEMAN (M)

## YOGI BEAR SCHOOLHOUSE PROGRAM

The Children's Earthquake Preparedness Safety Program (Yogi Bear Schoolhouse) began in the mid 1980's as a partnership between the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Hanna-Barbera Studios, Piping Industry Progress and Education (P.I.P.E.) and the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Fifth District). This valuable program is designed to educate third grade students in earthquake emergency preparedness. In May 2002, the Yogi Bear Schoolhouse Program celebrated its one millionth participant.

The success of the program has been the partnership between the Fire Department and P.I.P.E. volunteers. We have been very fortunate to have many of the original volunteers still involved with the program. At the beginning of the 2003-04 school year, many of our dedicated P.I.P.E. volunteers began to retire from the program. By the conclusion of the school year, it was realized that it was time to replace our retiring volunteers. At this time, P.I.P.E. is working with my staff to recruit and train new Yogi Bear Schoolhouse Program volunteers.

This recruitment gives our Department the opportunity to refurbish the two mechanical schoolhouses. We anticipate that the Yogi Bear Schoolhouse Program will be up and running sometime around the beginning of the year. The school districts have already been notified of the postponement of the program. We will advise the school districts and all involved parties when the program is back in service.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Battalion Chief Dave Stone, Public Affairs Section, at (323) 881-2472.

PMF:ds

c: David Janssen, Brian Center, Randi Tahara, Joseph Charney, Rick Velasquez, Sussy Nemer, Stone

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